54 FR 5279

2

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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February 2, 1989

National Toxicology Program; Chemicals (6) Nominated for Toxicological Studies, Formamide, etc.; Request for Comments

SUMMARY: On December 1, 1988, the Chemical Evaluation Committee (CEC) of the **National Toxicology Program** (NTP) met to review six chemicals nominated for toxicology studies and to recommend the types of studies to be performed, if any. With this notice, the NTP solicits public comments on the six chemicals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Victor A. Fung, Chemical Selection Coordinator, **National Toxicology Program,** Room 2B55, Building 31, Natioinal Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20892, (301) 496-3511.

TEXT: SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of the chemical selection process of the National Toxicology Program, nominated chemicals which have been reviewed by the NTP Chemical Evaluation Committee (CEC) are published with request for comment in the Federal Register. This is done to encourage active participation in the NTP chemical evaluation process, thereby helping the NTP to make more informed decisions as to whether to select, defer or reject chemicals for toxicology study. Comments and data submitted in response to this request are reviewed and summarized by NTP technical staff, are forwarded to the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors for use in their evaluation of the nominated chemicals, and then to the NTP Executive Committee for decision-making. The NTP chemical selection process is summarized in the Federal Register, April 14, 1981 (46 FR 21828), and also in the NTP FY 1988 *Annual Plan,* pages 16-19.

On December 1, 1988, the CEC met to evaluate six chemicals nominated to the NTP for toxicological studies. The following table lists the chemicals, their Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) registry numbers, and the types of toxicological studies recommended by the CEC at the meeting.

Chemical	CAS registry No.	Committee recommendations
Formamide	75-12-7	Carcinogenicity. Reproductive effects.
N-Methylforma mide	123-39-7	*Salmonella* assay.
Dimethylforma mide	68-12-2	Reproductive effects.
Indium phosphide	22398-80-7	Stability studies. Toxicity including immunotoxicity. Carcinogenicity.
N-Methylpyrroli done	872-50-4	Quantitative dermal absorption studies. Reproductive effects. Carcinogenicity.
Tremolite (non-asbestiform)	14567-73-8	Carcinogenicity.

Three of the six chemicals have been previously selected for other types of toxicology studies by the NTP. Formamide was non-mutagenic in *Salmonella,* and negative for sex-linked recessive lethal mutations in Drosophila. Dimethylformamide was non-mutagenic in *Salmonella,* positive in the mouse lymphoma assay in one study and non-mutagenic in two other independent studies, and negative for chromosomal aberrations and sister chromatid exchanges in Chinese

hamster ovary cells. Dimethylformamide was previously selected by NTP for inhalation carcinogenicity studies in rats and mice. N-Methylpyrrolidone was non-mutagenic in *Salmonella.*

Asbestos tremolite was negative in NTP feeding carcinogenicity studies in male and female rats.

Interested parties are requested to submit pertinent information. The following types of data are of particular relevance:

(1) Modes of production, present production levels, and occupational exposure potential.

(2) Uses and resulting exposure levels, where known.

(3) Completed, ongoing and/or planned toxicologic testing in the private sector including detailed experimental protocols and results, in the case of completed studies.

(4) Results of toxicological studies of structurally related compounds.

Please submit all information in writing by March 6, 1989. Any submissions received after the above date will be accepted and utilized where possible.

Dated: January 26, 1989.

David P. Rall,

Director, National Toxicology Program.

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